

Congressman Gonzalez Urges "DREAM Kids" to End Hunger Strike

San Antonio, TX – Congressman Charles Gonzalez (TX – 20) issued the following open letter to the DREAM Act supporters, urging them to end their month-long hunger strike:

December 9, 2010

Dear DREAM Act supporters:

In this great country, we enjoy the freedom of peaceful demonstrations and you may have heard of some students who have been exercising their rights for a very important and an urgently needed piece of legislation.

Now, I'm strongly urging the students to end their hunger strike for it could harm their health and jeopardize their ability to further advocate for this important issue. These brave students have made their presence felt and their voices heard.

Thanks to their courageous efforts, House Democrats passed the historic legislation last night and now the fight continues in the Senate. It is important that they remain engaged in the process and dialogue, but in order to be effective they must be physically and mentally ready to continue their battle for justice and opportunity.

I encourage everyone to contact their Senators, especially those who have supported the bill in the past, to heed the call of our students and other young people who were brought here by their parents, to not succumb to partisan political games and to stand up for what they already know is the right thing.

The DREAM Act has been an issue that has aroused passion in many of us. It has been evident in these students' dedication to the cause, in their commitment to fighting for an opportunity to contribute to a nation they call "home." Now, more than ever, we need to use that fervor to continue to keep DREAM alive and turned into a reality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charlie", written in a cursive style.

Charles A. Gonzalez

Member of Congress

###